Action taken on resolutions regarding closure of toddy shops.

* 2326 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps were taken or effect was given to the resolutions accepted by the Madras Legislative Council some months ago regarding excise policy in removing all the existing toddy, arrack or beer shops from the localities of the Adi-Dravidas two furlongs away;

(b) whether new licensing boards as contemplated in the resolution were created already in all the districts and the members appointed, due care being taken to see that nomination is given to a member of the depressed classes on that board; and

(c) if nothing has been done as per queries (a) and (b) the reason for not giving effect to them?

A.—The subject is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know when the Government are likely to come to a decision and how long it will take them?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is a very important matter involving reference to several members of the Government and also to the Finance Committee. It is not possible to jump at any conclusion from the facts available."

Local Boards.

Travelling allowances to presidents of district boards.

* 2327 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: With reference to the answer to question No. 319 asked in the Legislative Council on the 8th February 1924, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the district boards whose presidents drew travelling allowances at rates higher than they were eligible for;

(b) whether the excess amounts so drawn have since been recovered; and

(c) the orders passed by the Government after consideration of the whole question?

A.—(a) & (b) Complete information is not available.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 517, L. & M., dated 26th February 1924 (published in Part I-A of the *Fort St George Gazette*, dated 4th March 1924).

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"When I asked this question in February 1924 the matter was old enough. Now I am repeating that question. The answer is that complete information is not available. Will the hon. the Minister be so good as to give the information so far as it is collected?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The Government have no objection to give the information that is available."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), I beg to bring to your notice that it refers to an issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*. I wish to know whether the gazette is available here for reference by any hon. Member who may have to put a supplementary question."